

RELEASED IN PART UNCLASSIFIED
B1, 1.4(D)

ACTION SCT-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 A-00 CCO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00
 COME-00 CTME-00 INL-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 WHA-00
 DS-00 EB-00 FAAE-00 VC-00 H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00
 INSE-00 LAB-01 L-00 CAC-00 VCE-00 M-00 AC-00
 NRC-00 NSAE-00 OCS-00 OMB-00 PA-00 MCC-00 PM-00
 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 FMPC-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
 DEA HQ WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
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NSC FOR CBARTON
 USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2014
 TAGS: PGOV, PTER, KJUS, VE
 SUBJECT: UPDATE ON INVESTIGATION INTO VENEZUELAN
 PROSECUTOR'S KILLING

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ABELARDO A. ARIAS FOR REASONS 1.4 (d
)

 SUMMARY

1. (C) On January 13 Venezuelan prosecutors formally
 accused three suspects as the material authors of the murder
 of Venezuelan prosecutor Danilo Anderson. According to
 information [REDACTED] there are no
 solid leads as to the intellectual authors of the crime.

B7(A), B1

[REDACTED]
 Focusing on one

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 24 JAN 2025
 APPEAL ACTION: ORIGINAL DECISION UPHELD
 REASON(S): B1, 1.4(D), B7(A), B7(D)
 DATE/CASE ID: 05 MAR 2008 200404750

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E SINN
 DATE/CASE ID: 30 JUN 2005 200404750

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possibility, Venezuelan Interior Minister Jesse Chacon announced January 4 that investigators had found indications that lawyers close to Anderson were extorting money from some of the 400 people Anderson was investigating for signing the Carmona Decree. According to press reports, prosecutors took the case away from the police team that was investigating on January 21, for the second time since Anderson's death.

B1, B7(A)

End Summary.

Guevaras Accused

2. (U) On January 13 prosecutors filed a formal accusation against the brothers Rolando and Otoniel Guevara, and their cousin Juan Bautista Guevara as the material authors of the death of prosecutor Danilo Anderson, which occurred on November 18, 2004. Two other suspects were killed by police in the days following the assassination. Arrest warrants were also issued for two other suspects, Pedro Lander and Johan Pena. Newspaper reports mention other possible suspects, but authorities have taken no action.

Intellectual Authors?

3. (U) Attorney General Isaias Rodriguez told reporters January 5 that prosecutors are still investigating several different theories about who may have ordered the assassination of Anderson. According to press reports, there is no information in the case file against the Guevara that indicates why Anderson was killed. Most of the evidence in the case consists of phone records, witnesses who place the suspects at the scene of the crime, and testimony from one Venezuelan citizen in Miami.

Cooperation

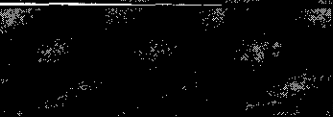

4. (C) GOV investigators approached post DEA representatives in December to request their assistance in the case.

B1, B7(A), B7(D)

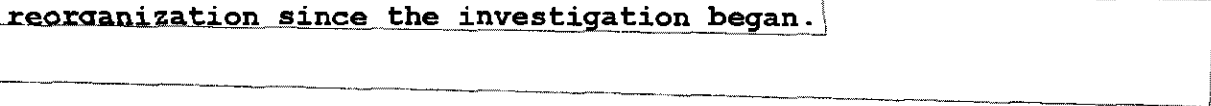
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Of Rebellion and Extortion

5. (C) Immediately after the assassination, GOV officials suggested the intellectual authors were either linked to the military officers from Plaza Altamira, or to the opposition leaders being investigated by Anderson in relation to the events of April 11, 2002. On January 4, however, Interior Minister Jesse Chacon revealed that investigators were now looking into the possibility that lawyers linked to Anderson were extorting money from some of the 400 suspects in the Carmona Decree case. Chacon described a system involving two groups of lawyers, one linked to Anderson, and the other to bankers being investigated. Chacon neither confirmed nor denied Anderson's involvement. Attorney General Isaias Rodriguez confirmed the investigation January 5, but denied Anderson had been involved.



6. (C) Press reports on January 21 said that the prosecutors investigating the case were reorganizing the police team in charge of the case. This is the second such reorganization since the investigation began.



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B1, B7(A)

Comment



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